

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-04

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-07 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 078587

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAID, SU

SUBJECT: SUDANESE FONMIN KHALID'S CRITICISM OF US
ASSISTANCE TO RAHAD PROJECT

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY EASUM

1. IN CONVERSATIONS WITH US OFFICIALS, FONMIN KHALID HAS TENDENCY TO MAKE CRITICAL COMMENTS ABOUT US ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS WHICH UPON INVESTIGATION TURN OUT TO HAVE BEEN BASED ON INSUFFICIENT INFORMATION OR OUTRIGHT MISINFORMATION. MOST RECENT EXAMPLE WAS HIS COMMENT TO SECRETARY KISSINGER ON OCTOBER 16 THAT US HAD FAILED TO PROVIDE SECURITY ASSISTANCE PROMISED BY PRESIDENT NIXON AFTER ASSASSINATIONS OF US AMBASSADOR AND DCM IN KHARTOUM IN MARCH 1973. IN FACT, US HAD SUPPLIED ALL REQUESTED EQUIPMENT AND KHALID'S REMARKS, AS SUDANESE AMBASSADOR HAMZA EMBARRASSEDLY ADMITTED TO US LATER, WERE BASED ON MISUNDERSTANDING OF BRIEF ORAL CONVERSATION WITH SUDANESE INTERIOR MINISTER JUST BEFORE DEPARTURE FOR US.

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2. KHALID APPEARS TO BE MISINFORMED IN THIS CASE ALSO. FACTS ARE AS FOLLOWS: US HAS MADE DOLS 11 MILLION LOAN TO GOS FOR EQUIPMENT TO BE USED ON RAHAD IRRIGATION PROJECT. LOAN CONTAINED STANDARD PROVISION THAT EQUIPMENT BE PURCHASED FROM US OR FROM APPROVED LIST OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, PROVISION OF WHICH SUDANESE WERE WELL AWARE WHEN THEY SIGNED LOAN AGREEMENT. ORIGINAL LIST OF EQUIPMENT DRAWN UP BY IBRD HAS BEEN REVISED AFTER CONSULTATIONS BETWEEN GOS AND CONSULTING FIRM HIRED UNDER AID LOAN AGREEMENT. PRICE INCREASES AND CHANGED EQUIPMENT LIST MAY RAISE TOTAL COST ABOVE DOLS 11 MILLION LOAN. IBRD'S ORIGINAL TIMETABLE PROVED OPTIMISTIC AND FOLLOWING IBRD-GOS CONSULTATIONS IT WAS SET BACK ONE YEAR. WE HAVE EVERY EXPECTATION OF SUPPLYING GOS WITH EQUIPMENT IT NEEDS FOR PROJECT UP TO LIMIT OF DOLS 11 MILLION LOAN WITHIN REVISED TIMETABLE DRAWN UP BY IBRD AND GOS. KISSINGER

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